



Afternoon Alert - Thursday, October 26, 2017

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HEADLINES

Noon news

NHK led with a report on a Fox TV interview with President Trump on Wednesday, during which he talked about his upcoming visit to Asia and expressed his intention to work to resolve the North Korea issue. TBS led with a report that informal talks between the U.S. and the DPRK scheduled for later this month in Oslo, Norway, were cancelled by North Korea at the last minute due to such reasons as the U.S.-ROK joint military drills. NTV gave top play to a report on a fire that broke out in a food market in Akashi, Hyogo, on Wednesday afternoon. Fuji TV led with a report on a mudslide at a quarry in Fukuyama, Hiroshima, this morning, saying that one worker remains missing.

INTERNATIONAL

President Trump plans to work on North Korea issue during Asia tour

NHK and Fuji TV reported at noon on Fox TV's one-on-one interview with President Trump, which was aired on Wednesday, during which the President said he will visit Japan, South Korea, and China for the first time from Nov. 5 and said he hopes that his visit will be "historic and positive." The President also reportedly stressed that he will work on resolving the North Korea issue by saying: "We have to solve the North Korea problem. It's a very big problem.... I'll get it solved." On Chinese President Xi, the President was quoted as saying: "He is a powerful man, and a very good person.... There will always be a conflict between the U.S. and China but we have a very good relationship." Meanwhile, the President reportedly said he was proud to have withdrawn the U.S. from the TPP and expressed his eagerness to promote bilateral trade negotiations. NHK said attention will be focused on what kind of interactions the President will have with his counterparts on such issues as

trade and North Korea during his Asia trip.

- [Japan to propose dialogue with US, India and Australia](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japan, Britain eye security talks in mid-Dec. amid N. Korea threat](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Editorial: Japan, U.S., S. Korea should enhance multi-tiered coordination on N. Korea](#) (The Japan News)
- [Japan to donate 5 navy training aircraft to Philippines](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [3 A-bomb survivors to attend Nobel Peace Prize ceremony in Dec.](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan to offer \\$3 mil. in development aid to Micronesia](#) (Kyodo News)

ECONOMY

- [Minister orders possible JIS inspections of all Kobe Steel plants](#) (Asahi)
- [Abe to tell CEOs of his 'wish' to see 3% wage increase](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Malaysia's Petroliaam Nasional signs three-year gas supply deal with JERA Co](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Gov't to support development of self-driving boats](#) (Nikkei)
- [Competition in Japan's wind farm market intensifying among global manufacturers](#) (Nikkei)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on Oct. 25, 2017](#) (Nikkei)
- [Abe not expected to give policy speech at Diet on Nov. 1](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Upcoming political events anticipated by ruling camp](#) (Mainichi)
- [Authority suspects Moritomo got extra discount of 600 mil yen in land deal](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [At least 27 newspapers' editorials on election results cited Moritomo, Kake scandals](#) (Mainichi)

- [Maehara acknowledges continuation of Democratic Party](#) (Mainichi)
- [Metropolitan assembly's DP members drop plans to join Tomin First no Kai](#) (Yomiuri)

OPINION POLLS

- [Cabinet approval rating up to 52% after LDP's landslide win, Yomiuri spot poll](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Spot opinion poll & results from Yomiuri Shimbun](#) (Yomiuri)
- [51% say ruling parties "won too many seats" in LH election, Asahi poll](#) (Asahi)
- [Nearly half oppose Abe's constitutional revision plan, Asahi poll](#) (Asahi)
- [Opinion poll & results from Asahi Shimbun](#) (Asahi)
- [Jiji Press public opinion poll on newspapers](#) (Jiji Press Public Opinion Poll Bulletin)

SOCIETY

People growing overly sensitive to body odor

NHK's "Close-up Gendai +" reported that people are becoming extremely concerned about their own body odor lately, adding that seminars on how to control body odor are increasingly popular among company employees. Some young people are reportedly having trouble interacting with others because they're worried about their body odor. The program also reported on health problems caused by fragrances used in fabric softeners and other products.

- [Served pork, Muslims go on hunger strike at Osaka facility](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Column: Japanese tendency to take data lightly](#) (Asahi)

SECURITY

U.S., Japanese vessels rescue Iranian fishing boat

Jiji Press reported from Washington that the U.S. Navy announced on Wednesday that the U.S. Navy destroyer USS Howard and MSDF destroyer JS Amagiri rescued an Iranian fishing boat that had come under attack by pirates off Yemen. Jiji wrote that it is rare for the U.S. military to receive a request for help and rescue an Iranian ship amid the deteriorating relationship between the U.S. and Iran under the Trump administration, which is criticizing the nation's ballistic missile development and support for terrorists. According to the U.S. Navy, the Iranian coast guard requested assistance

from the U.S. military after the fishing boat was attacked by pirates. The USS Howard and JS Amagiri rushed to the scene and provided medical aid, food, and water to the crew members. Jiji said the U.S. and Japanese vessels were participating in multilateral anti-piracy operations in waters off the east coast of Somalia.

Ginowan mayor hopes President Trump supports early return of Futenma

NHK reported on its website this morning that Ginowan Mayor Sakima held a press conference in Washington on Wednesday after paying visits to the State Department and the Pentagon. At the press conference, he expressed hope that President Trump will demonstrate a positive stance toward realizing the early return of MCAS Futenma when he makes his first visit to Japan as the U.S. leader next month. According to the network, Mayor Sakima said: "It would be nice if officials of the governments of the U.S. and Japan would make positive comments about an early return of the Futenma base. I hope that President Trump will make more concrete remarks." Meanwhile, on incidents involving the U.S. military, including the emergency landing by a Futenma-based helicopter this month, the Ginowan mayor said he conveyed the concerns and frustrations of the Okinawan people to the U.S. side and called for thorough measures. According to the network, a USG official reportedly told Sakima that the U.S. side will make efforts to prevent a recurrence and stressed the importance of the steady implementation of the Futenma relocation plan as agreed upon by the two governments in order to lower the risk of accidents.

- [MIC and domestic network providers collaborate to prevent cyberattacks](#) (Nikkei)

OKINAWA LOCAL PRESS

Senior Okinawa official renews protest over aircraft accident

Ryukyu Shimpo and Okinawa Times took up a protest filed on Wednesday with the U.S. Marine Corps in Okinawa by a senior prefectural government official against the recent mishap involving a Futenma-based CH-53E, noting that the prefectural government elected to lodge another protest because Okinawa Area Coordinator Nicholson has refused to respond to its call for him to visit the government office to offer an apology. According to the local official who visited Camp Foster to lodge the protest, USMC Okinawa Assistant Chief of Staff Darin Clarke apologized for the accident "which caused considerable anxiety" among local people. Colonel Clarke also reportedly told the visitor that the U.S. military will look into Okinawa's request for suspending the use of three helipads at the Northern Training Area after surveying them in the near future.

In a related story, Okinawa Times reported that the USFJ told the daily on Wednesday that the Okinawa Police, not the U.S. military, prevented Okinawa prefectural officials from collecting soil at the accident site for a radiation survey on Oct. 17, six days after the incident occurred. A U.S. military spokesman reportedly said: "We approved requests for sampling soil by the Okinawa Defense Bureau and the prefectural government, but the Japanese police blocked their access." The

local police dismissed this explanation by saying: “This is not true as there would be no reason for us to stop such operations.”

- [Rear Admiral Fenton attends seminar on Okinawa’s history](#) (Ryukyu Shimpo)
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